

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1951

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USMNR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

UNCLAS IZMIR 352

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO, PINT, GR, TU

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION THAT NATO PLANNING CONCEDES THRACE TO  
ATTACKER

REF: ATHENS 9252

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USMISSION NATO PASS TO NATO INFORMATION OFFICE FOR DIVRIES

1. AP CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL DUFFY WAS PARTICIPANT IN PRESS TOUR  
OF NATO SOUTHERN FLANK WITH 21 OTHER EUROPEAN AND U.S.

JOURNALISTS WEEK OF OCT. 2. GROUP VISITED NAPLES, ERZURUM (IN  
EASTERN TURKEY) AND CTF502 ELEMENT OF DISPLAY DETERMINATION  
ABOARD USS SARRATOGA IN ADDITION TO NATO HEADQUARTERS IN IZMIR.  
JOINT BRIEFING BY LSE, SIXATAF, AND COMNAVSOUTH REP IZMIR.

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PRESENTED TO GROUP OCT 5 WITH LIMITED COPIES OF PREPARED  
BRIEFINGS PASSED TO NATO PUBLIC AFFAIRS ESCORT OFFICER MR.  
DEVRIES FOR LATER REFERENCE BY TOUR MEMBERS.

2. DUFFY'S DIRECT QUOTATION FROM ONE BRIEFING OFFICER,  
"DEFENSIVE POSITIONS HAD TO BE LOCATED BACK FROM THE FRONTIER  
IN ORDER TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF TERRAIN SUITABLE FOR  
DEFENSE" APPEARS OUT OF CONTEXT. BALANCE OF HIS STATEMENTS IN

REFTEL DISTORT AND MISCONSTRUE CONTENTS OF BRIEFING. STANDARD  
UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING

USED BY LSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS STRESS  
IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGY OF FORWARD DEFENSE DUE TO PROXIMITY OF  
BULGARIAN BORDER TO HELENIC THRACIAN PORTS. IN DISCUSSION OF  
TACTICAL PROBLEMS OF THIS STRATEGY BRIEFING OFFICERS USE VISUALS  
TO INDICATE THAT ALONG BULGARIAN BORDER WITH GREECE A FEW

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MOUNTAIN VALLEYS ARE THE CRITICAL POINTS OF DEFENSE. IT IS NOT  
RPT NOT THE GREEK SECTION OF THE BORDER BUT ONLY ALONG THE  
TURKISH-BULGARIAN FRONTIER THAT FLAT OPEN TERRAIN IS CITED AS  
A FACTOR WHICH DICTATES DEFENSIVE POSITIONS "BE LOCATED BACK FROM  
THE FRONTIER".

3. RELEVANT TEXT OF BRIEFING AS DELIVERED FOLLOWS:

QUOTE, THE MISSION GIVEN TO THE COMMANDER, LANDSOUTHEAST, IS  
THAT HE WILL BE PREPARED TO AND WILL, ON ORDER, CONDUCT LAND  
OPERATIONS FOR THE DEFENSE OF GREECE AND TURKEY WITH PARTICULAR  
REFERENCE TO TURKISH STRAITS. SACEUR HAS DESIGNATION THE  
BALTIC, CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE TURKISH STRAITS OF ISTANBUL AND  
CANAKKALE AS ESSENTIAL TO THE OVERALL DEFENSE OF ACE, END QUOTE.  
QUOTE, BULGARIA WOULD PROFIT CONSIDERABLY FROM OWNERSHIP OF THE  
AEGEAN PORTS OF THESSALONIKI, KAVALLA, AND ALEXANDROUPOLIS.  
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EQUALLY, RUSSIA HISTORICALLY HAS ALWAYS WANTED SOME DEGREE OF  
CONTROL OF THE TURKISH STRAITS... TO MEET THESE THREATS OUR  
FORCES ARE REQUIRED TO DEFEND THE VARYING TERRAIN OF THE  
LANDSOUTHEAST ZONE, END QUOTE.  
QUOTE, IN NORTHERN GREECE THE TERRAIN IS MOUNTAINOUS WITH FEW  
NARROW PASSES. IN THE NORTHEAST, THERE IS A LACK OF DEFENSIVE

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DEPTH ALLOWING WOULD-BE ATTACKERS TO MOVE QUICKLY TO THE SEA ONCE  
THE INITIAL FRONTIER POSITIONS HAVE BEEN PENETRATED. FORWARD  
DEFENSE HAS A VERY REAL MEANING IN THIS AREA. ONLY TWENTY  
KILOMETERS OF GREECE SEPARATE BULGARIA FROM A DIRECT OUTLET TO  
THE MEDITERRANEAN.  
IN THE EAST, IN TURKISH THRACE, THE OPEN ROLLING FEATURELESS  
TERRAIN AS SEEN ON THIS SLIDE GREATLY FAVORS THE WARSAW PACTS  
ARMOR ADVANTAGE. AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM THIS PICTURE, THE  
COUNTRY IS DIFFICULT TO DEFEND BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF NATURAL  
OBSTACLES. THERE ARE MOUNTAINS AND HIGH HILLS IN THE AREA OF THE  
BULGARIAN BORDER. BUT THE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS HAD TO BE LOCATED  
BACK FROM THE FRONTIER IN ORDER TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF

TERRAIN SUITABLE FOR DEFENSE.

TURKISH UNITS IN THIS AREA. ARE OF COURSE, POSITIONED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STRAITS SINCE NO LAND COMMANDER CAN IGNORE THE AMPHIBIOUS THREAT POSED BY THE BLACK SEA FLEET, IN ADDITION TO THE SOVIET AIRBORNE DIVISIONS WHICH COULD BE USED TO ISOLATE AND SEIZE THIS VITAL AREA. END QUOTE.

4. IN ANY BACKGROUNDING FOR LOCAL PRESS ADDRESSES MAY WISH TO STRESS THAT STRATEGY OF FORWARD DEFENSE APPLIES THROUGHOUT ALLIED

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COMMAND EUROPE, ESPECIALLY IN GREEK THRACE. FOR MAXIMUM TACTICAL ADVANTAGE AGAINST INVASION OF TURKISH THRACE, LINES OF DEFENSE UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE ARE ESTABLISHED ACCORDING TO THE FEATURES OF THE TERRAIN RATHER THAN ALONG THE PHYSICAL (I.E. POLITICAL) BORDER. SUCH TACTICAL DISPOSITIONS IN LIMITED AREAS ARE DESIGNED TO INSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO'S OVERALL STRATEGY OF FORWARD DEFENSE.

5. THIS CABLE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH LSE WHICH IS PROVIDING COPIES OF FULL COMBINED BRIEF FOR POUCH TO ANKARA, ATHENS AND ISTANBUL.

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